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DARK REIGN
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AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! AND ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE SKRULLS HAS FAILED AT THEIR ATTEMPTED INVASION OF EARTH. BUT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

TONY STARK TOOK THE BLAME FOR THE INVASION AND HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS ROLES AS BOTH LEADER OF THE AVENGERS AND DIRECTOR OF A NOW DEFUNCT S.H.I.E.L.D., WHILE THUNDERBOLTS LEADER, AND ONE-TIME SUPER-VILLAIN GREEN GOBLIN, NORMAN OSBORN HAS RISEN TO POWER AND BEEN APPOINTED TO REPLACE STARK.

DURING THE INVASION, THE GROWING PARANOIA CREATED A RIFT IN THE MARRIAGE OF AVENGER LUKE CAGE AND JESSICA JONES. WORRIED FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR CHILD, JESSICA SEEKS SHELTER AT AVENGERS TOWER, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF STARK'S BUTLER, JARVIS, TO WAIT OUT THE WORST OF IT.

BUT WHEN THE INVASION'S FINAL BATTLE HIT ITS ZENITH, JESSICA JONES MADE THE SELFLESS DECISION TO LEAVE HER CHILD WITH JARVIS, AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND. LITTLE DID SHE KNOW, JARVIS WAS ONE OF THE SKRULL AGENTS EMBEDDED WITHIN THE AVENGERS.

BY THE TIME JESSICA FIGURED IT OUT, JARVIS, AND THE BABY, WERE GONE.

THE NEW AVENGERS HAVE GATHERED UNDER CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ROOF, BUT TRY AS THEY MIGHT THEY CANNOT FIND THE MISSING BABY. SO LUKE CAGE TURNS TO THE ONE MAN WITH THE POWER AND INFLUENCE TO HELP HIM... NORMAN OSBORN. OSBORN USES HIS INFLUENCE TO HELP GET THE BABY IN RETURN FOR LUKE'S ALLEGIANCE. BUT WITH THE BABY SAFE, LUKE RENEGES ON THE DEAL, AND, UNBEKNOWNST TO HIM, MAKES OSBORN'S LIST.

THE GATHERED AVENGERS CELEBRATE THE BABY'S SAFE RETURN BUT ARE SHOCKED TO SEE A WORLDWIDE PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF OSBORN'S VERSION OF THE AVENGERS. AVENGERS THAT HAVE TAKEN THE ICONIC LIKENESS OF MANY OF THEM.

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YOUR... AVENGERS!
PAUSE IT THERE.
THERE!
PAUSE II
WHO THE HELL ARE THESE SO-CALLED AVENGERS?
MS. MARVEL
RONIN
WOLVERINE
IRON FIST
SPIDER-MAN
LUKE CAGE
HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN CARE.
I JUST KNOW I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO SLAP EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.
YES, CLINT, YOU'VE MADE THAT CLEAR, BUT WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO GO OVER THERE AND TRASH A SKYSCRAPER.
AND WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING OVER THERE BLIND, WITHOUT A PLAN, OR KNOWING WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE!
THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL SKRULLS.
OSBORN'S CRAZY, BUT HE AIN'T THAT CRAZY.
IN MY EXPERIENCE, ACTUALLY, HE MAY VERY MUCH BE THAT CRAZY.
JUST STOP SAYING SKRULL. I'M SICK OF THE WORD.
SINCERELY.
NORMAN OSBORN IS A HERO NOW?
NO.
SURE HE IS.
I SAW IT ON TV.
AND NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE OFF ALL MY CLOTHES AND GO RUN THROUGH THE STREETS SCREAMING.

CAPTAIN AMERICA
HE'S GOT ONE DRESSED AS HAWKEYE.
AND I'M SAYING: IF IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ME OR THAT KATE BISHOP GIRL, I'M PISSED.
HE'S GOT A BLACK COSTUME SPIDEY.
HE ACTUALLY WENT AND GOT HIMSELF A SPIDEY. I MEAN, TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO THAT.
WHAT A TOOL.
SO ARES AND THE SENTRY ARE COMPLETE AND TOTAL SELLOUTS. IS THAT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TODAY?
SENTRY'S A SICK MAN WHO SHOULD BE COMMITTED. SOMEWHERE OFF-PLANET, PREFERABLY.
I HEAR THAT.
AND ARES, I HAVE NO IDEA.
ARES IS ARES. GOD OF WAR.
THOR WANNA-BE.
LET'S SEE YOU SAY THAT TO HIS FACE.
I'LL SAY IT RIGHT TO HIS FACE.
SURE YOU WILL.
SO IS THAT--WHO IS THAT ONE? IS CAPTAIN MARVEL ALIVE NOW?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I THINK THAT'S THAT MARVEL BOY KID.
HE WAS GOOD WITH THE SKRULLS.
SO WHO'S THE MS. MARVEL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WENT AND GOT A MS. MARVEL. OF ALL THE--
WELL, YOU DID TELL HIM TO GO @#$% HIMSELF.
I DID, BUT--WHERE WOULD HE EVEN GET PEOPLE WITH--?
AH @#$%, YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE...?

THOSE ARE THE [redacted] THUNDERBOLTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
COUPLE OF THEM WERE IN THE TOWER WHEN WE GOT THE BABY BACK.
THAT'S--THAT'S WHAT'S-HER-FACE, THE ONE WITH THE MOONSTONE. WHAT'S HER NAME?!
MOONSTONE.
SHE-- HE DRESSED HER UP AS ME.
SO THAT MEANS-- OH, MAN... THAT'S BULLSEYE?!
BULLSEYE, THE CRAZY ASSASSIN?!
THAT'S BULLSEYE DRESSED AS HAWKEYE?!
YOU'RE DRESSED AS ECHO.
WHERE IS MAYA?!
I DON'T KNOW. SHE DISAPPEARED AFTER THE BIG SKRULL BATTLE.
I CALLED HER TO MEET US. SHE NEVER SHOWED.
MAN, HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
WHO'S MAYA?!
OH, NO. NO NO NO.
THAT'S-- THAT'S VENOM.
THAT'S VENOM AS ME. THAT'S-- AND IT'S NOT EVEN THE GOOD ONE. IT'S MAC GARGAN.
WHO?
THE SCORPION.
WHO?
GUY USED TO FIGHT WITH A SCORPION TAIL. YOU KNOW... HE USED TO THROW HIS BUTT AT YOU.
AND NOW HE'S--?
YEAH.
AND NORMAN'S GOT HIM IN THE TOWER?
EXACTLY.
WOW.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WHO'S THE WOLVERINE THEY GOT?
ANYONE YOU KNOW?
IT'S MY KID.

YOU HAVE A--?

YOU'VE HAD SEX?
DO WE NEED TO GO IN THERE AND SAVE HIM?
IT'S NOT A KIDNAPPING.
KID'S A GROWN-UP. KID MADE A DECISION.
MAYBE HE'S BEEN BRAINWASHED OR...
NO.
BUT I WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH THE BOY.
I JUST-- NOT TO CHANGE THE UNCOMFORTABLE SUBJECT-- BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW OSBORN'S GOT ALL OF TONY STARK'S STUFF
HE HAS TONY STARK'S ENTIRE BUILDING?!
THAT-- THAT SEEMS SO--
TONY WAS PAYING FOR EVERYTHING WITH S.H.I.E.L.D MONEY.
REALLY?!

WHY WOULD STARK DO THAT?
CLEARLY, HE DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THIS COMING.
NONE OF US DID.
(BULLSEYE.)
I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT I KNOW.
I MET WITH OSBORN YESTERDAY— THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.
SO THIS NORMAN OSBORN...
THIS IS THE GREEN GOBLIN.
YES.
THERE'S NO QUESTION.
NONE.
HE'S MURDERED.
YES.
AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH A TEAM OF LIKE-MINDED—
YES.
AND HE'S WEASELED HIS WAY INTO A POSITION OF POWER, AND WE BELIEVE IT HAS TO BE WITH THE INTENTION OF ABUSING IT.

ABSOLUTELY.
SO WE GO IN THERE... WE FIGHT THEM.
THEN WHAT? WE ARREST THEM? NO. BECAUSE WE CAN'T.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
WE EXPOSE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE.
YES.
HOW?
HAVE YOU EVER--EVER--FOUGHT ANYONE WHO, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT, HASN'T EXPOSED THEMSELVES FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE?
WE DON'T JUST ATTACK THEM IN THEIR HOME.
IT'S STUPID. IT'S-- NO.
FIRST OF ALL, NO OFFENSE, WE'RE JUST OUTPOWERED.
UM... NOT ENTIRELY.
YEAH?
REMEMBER WHEN TONY STARK TRIED TO TRAP YOU GUYS WITH CAP'S DEAD BODY AS BAIT?
AH, GOOD TIMES.
TONY'S POWER INHIBITOR. YES.
HEY, IF NOT FOR DOCTOR STRANGE POPPING YOU GUYS OUT OF THERE, WE HAD YOU.
WHERE IS DOCTOR STRANGE?
WALKING THE EARTH, LIKE CAINE IN KUNG FU.
SO WE WHAT?
LURE THEM TO US AND DEPOWER THEM?
DEPOWER THEM.
AND BEAT THE BLACK OFF THEM.
CAN YOU EVEN GET ONE OF THESE STARKTECH THINGS?
I CAN.
EXCUSE ME...

JESSICA JONES CAGE
HI, GUESS I HAVE TO BE THE SANE ONE IN THE ROOM...
WHICH SHOULD NEVER BE THE CASE, BY THE WAY.
BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO LIVE.
BABY CAGE
WE DON'T LURE THEM *HERE*, JESSICA.
I THINK I KNOW A PLACE WE COULD GET THEM TO.
AND *HOW* DO WE LURE THEM?
WHY DO WE KEEP SAYING LURE?
ACTUALLY...
SPIDER-WOMAN
I THINK THIS MIGHT BE WHERE *I* COME IN.
YEAH, YEAH...
YEAH?
YEAH.

OSBORN, WE NEED TO DO A SKRULL SWEEP.
YES.
THERE ARE SOME OF THEM STILL OUT THERE.
NOT AS MANY AS YOU THINK, MARVEL BOY.
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
AVENGERS TOWER
RIGHT. SORRY.
WE HAVE PEOPLE ON THAT. NO, SKRULLS ARE YESTERDAY'S NEWS.
WE NEED YOU, US, TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SAFE FOR TOMORROW.
HOW ABOUT TONY STARK? RIGHT? ENEMY NUMBER ONE. HE LET THE INVASION HAPPEN. HE'S A WAR CRIMINAL. RIGHT? LET'S GO GET HIM.
NO.
FOR NOW, TONY STARK IS A COURT OF LAW MATTER.
KICKING A MAN WHILE HE'S DOWN IS HARDLY A WAY TO WIN OVER THE PUBLIC.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ON ANY LEVEL?
I DO.
SO YOU DO TOO.
SHOULD WE GO AROUND THE ROOM AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES?
WHAT?
IT WAS MY NICE WAY OF SAYING I DON'T KNOW WHO THE @#$% YOU ARE?
JEEZ!
WELL, LOOK AT THIS NOW...

RRR!
CAN I EAT HER?
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, MISS DREW?
SORRY TO GAH!CRASH THE PARTY, OSBORN.
I WAS TRYING TO GET A HOLD OF YOU, BUT I WASN'T EXACTLY SURE HOW.
CAN I KILL IT BEFORE HE EATS IT?
SHE'S NOT AN IT.
THIS ISN'T THE SKRULL QUEEN.
THIS IS THE HUMAN JESSICA DREW.
BUT HAVE PITY ON HER.
HERS WAS THE UNWILLING FACE OF THE SKRULL INVASION.
YEAH.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SOMETHING TO DO TO KEEP ME FROM KILLING MYSELF.
YOU WANT A JOB? WITH ME?
I'LL BE HONEST. I WENT TO THE AVENGERS FIRST.
YOU KNOW. THE OTHER AVENGERS...
BUT THEY PRETTY MUCH ALL HATE ME NOW BECAUSE, WELL, BECAUSE OF MY FACE.
THAT WAS CLEARLY A MISTAKE, SO...
SO YOU CAME HERE.
HMMM...
I'M SORRY, MISS DREW.
NOT SURE I'M INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT YOUR FACE EITHER.
SKRULLS ATTACKED US IN OUR HOME AND TRIED TO KILL US!
I AM--
NOT--
A SKRULL.

REALLY?
IS THAT WORTH A JOB?
YOU KNOW YOUR BUDDY LUKE CAGE ALREADY *TRIED* THIS CON ON ME.
I KNOW. *THAT'S* WHERE I GOT THE IDEA.
I WAS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN AGENT OF HYDRA.
JUST [redacted]VE [redacted] SOMETHING TO DO, MAN.

WHERE ARE WE?
THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
GENIUS.
TOTALLY. WHERE ARE WE?
HELLFIRE CLUB.
ONCE UPON A TIME THEY LOOKED LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL CLUB FOR WEALTHY TYPES...
BUT ITS INNER CIRCLE WAS REALLY A BUNCH'A MUTANTS WHO TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD BY--EH--DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THEY AIN'T [redacted] NOW. WE ARE.

I THOUGHT [redacted] WE'D USE THIS PLACE IF CAP HADN'T A HOOKED US UP WITH HIS.
LIKE, TO LIVE?
BETTER THAN NOTHING.
NOT REALLY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY. SO...

THAT IT?
STARKTECH POWER DRAINER.
AIN'T IT GOING TO DRAIN, LIKE, OUR POWERS TOO?
YOU TAKE THESE. THEY NEGATE THE EFFECTS.
BUT REMEMBER, THIS DOESN'T WORK ON EVERY POWER SET AND IT ONLY WORKS FOR A FEW MINUTES. WE ONLY HAVE A SMALL WINDOW.
IT'S LIKE A BIOLOGICAL EMP.
WE STILL HAVE A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN TO USE IT?
SOON, I'D SAY...

I THINK THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND ME.
HOW'D IT GO?
OH, GREAT.
ONE OF THEM TRIED TO EAT ME. THE OTHERS TRIED TO KILL ME.
BUT OSBORN TOOK THE BAIT?
HE [illegible] ME SO HE COULD FOLLOW ME. SEE?
THAT'S NEW TECH.
SO THEY'RE HERE?
THEY WILL BE SOON.
WAIT...
THEY'RE HERE?
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
@#&%!
BLAM BLAM BLAM

IS THE POWER DRAINER EVEN READY?!
I DIDN'T GET TO TURN IT ON!
@#$%!
WE SHOULD BAIL THEN. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
RIGHT.
CAROL, GET BOBBI OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE--
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
SORRY.
REALLY!
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS OFFICIALLY DOING THE HOKEY POKEY.
YEAH. MINE TOO.
BLAM
JEEZ!
BOOM!

THIS IS THE TEXTBOOK DEFINITION OF PAYBACK TIME.
EXCEPT THIS TIME YOU DON'T HAVE DOCTOR STRANGE TO WIN IT FOR YOU.

WHO THE HELL *ARE* THESE GUYS?!
THE HOOD'S GANG OF VILLAINS.
WHO THE HELL IS *THE HOOD*?
SEE THE GUY WITH THE HOOD...?
AND WHO ARE ALL THESE GUYS?
BAD GUYS TRYING TO KILL US. YOU CAN GOOGLE IT LATER.
YOU DON'T GET A LATER, CREEP.
QUIET METAL PUSS GROWN-UP'S TALKING.
BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING WHY [redacted] THEY HERE... NOW?

THIS RIGHT.
I KNOW I'M SICK IN THE HEAD, BUT THIS IS GREAT!
GO AFTER OSBORN AND WE END UP IN THIS?
I FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF FINALLY.
WOULD THE [illegible] KNOW WHERE AT [illegible]
CRACK
THIS IS AVENGERS STUFF. THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE. THIS [illegible] WEST COAST AVENGERS GOOD.
WE TELL OSBORN WHERE WE ARE, OSBORN SENDS THEM?
WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? [illegible] KIND OF DEAL THEY GOT GOING?
NOT EXACTLY SURE WHO ANYONE IS, BUT I CAN HIT THEM, I'M WITH CLINT, WE'RE KICKIN' ASS, THIS [illegible] GOOD.

THIS IS MY FAULT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS TURNED INTO THIS, BUT IT'S MY FAULT.
AND EVERYONE HATES ME.
ONE DAY AS AN AVENGER AND I FAIL COMPLETELY. WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
THESE PEOPLE HATE ME. THEY LOOK AT ME AND THEY SEE SKRULL AND LOSER. AND SKRULL LOSER.
I HATE THIS.
I HATE FEELING LIKE THIS.
I HATE FEELING LIKE THIS!
I HATE THAT THIS IS THE SUM OF ALL THE PARTS OF MY LIFE.
WELL, IF THIS IS HOW I GOTTA GO, I'M TAKING AS MANY OF THEM WITH ME AS I CAN!

MAN, SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME...
GOOD LOOKS, GRAVITAS, ICONIC COSTUME DESIGN...
BUT MAN, DOES MY TIMING EL SUCK-O.
SPOK
THEY ASKED ME TO BE AN AVENGER WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...I SAID NO.
THEY ASKED ME WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE... AND I SAID NO.
YOUNG ADULT, NOPE.
NOW I SAY YES!
NOW, WHEN THERE'S NO MANSION, NO BUTLER, NO TOWER, NO QUINJET, NO BIG TABLE WITH AN "A" ON IT...
THWIP
THWIP
I GET TO HIDE IN FAKE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BASEMENT AND WAIT THINGS LIKE THIS.
I TRULY AM A GENIUS.

KILL THESE @#$%ERS!
HYARGH!
AAGGH!
KILL EVERY SINGLE ONE!
COME ON!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
AAGGH!
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THIS IS!
AAGGH!
BUT YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR AN EARLY OUT?
HAPPY TO OBLIGE!

SON OF A BITCH!
CRASH

I HATE TO RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT LIKE THAT.
IT WASN'T WHAT WE WERE THERE FOR AND IT WASN'T GOING MY WAY.
SO WE RAN.
TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR SENSEI.
I WILL.
I'D LIKE TO SLAP HIM.

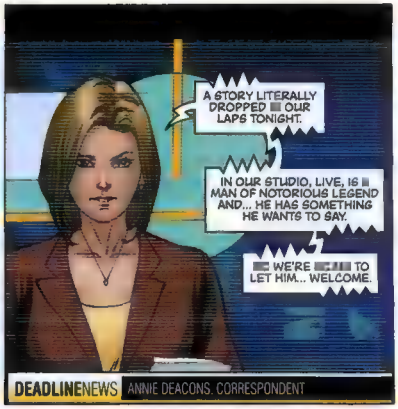
EVERYONE--HEY, EVERYONE CALM DOWN!
AND STOP BREAKING MY HOUSE.
SORRY. BUT DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED? ME TRY TO TRAP OSBORN AND THE HOOD SHOWS UP WITH AN ARMY.
YEAH? I MISSED THAT PART.
LISTEN TO ME... ME TRY TO TRAP OSBORN AND THE HOOD SHOWS UP WITH AN ARMY.

SO OSBORN AND THE HOOD ARE IN CAHOOTS.
OSBORN AND THE HOOD.
HAS TO BE.
WELL DAMN.
RIGHT?

I'M SORRY THIS WENT THIS WAY.
NOT YOUR FAULT.
IT IS.
YOU GOT US OUT OF THERE.

FORGET IT, JESS. LISTEN, IF NORMAN'S GOT SOME DEALINGS WITH CRIMINALS...
IF?
IF?!
WHERE'S HE GOING?
I DO NOT KNOW.
CLINT?

WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST TO BRING YOU THE FOLLOWING NEWS EXCLUSIVE.
BREAKING NEWS


A STORY LITERALLY DROPPED IN OUR LAPS TONIGHT.
IN OUR STUDIO, LIVE, IS A MAN OF NOTORIOUS LEGEND AND... HE HAS SOMETHING HE WANTS TO SAY.
WE'RE TO LET HIM... WELCOME.
DEADLINENEWS
ANNIE DEACONS. CORRESPONDENT

YES, HI. THANK YOU.
MY NAME CLINT BARTON.
I TO BE KNOWN AS THE AVENGER HAWKEYE. I WAS GOLIATH FOR A WHILE WELL... NOW I GO BY RONIN.
I AM TODAY TO SAY A FEW THINGS.
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

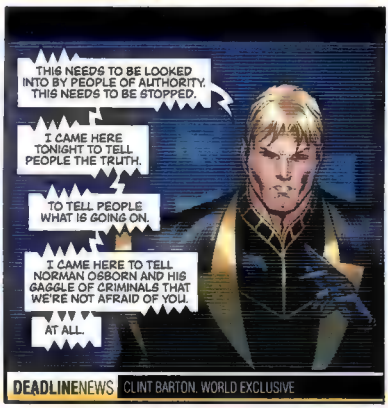
NORMAN OSBORN A CRIMINAL SOCIOPATH.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW OR TO HAVE FORGOTTEN, BUT HE USED TO THE MURDERER KNOWN AS THE GOBLIN.
HE WENT TO JAIL AND A MENTAL INSTITUTION BECAUSE OF THIS.
DEADLINENEWS
HAWKEYE COMES CLEAN. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

I BRING THIS UP BECAUSE SOMEHOW ALL THIS IS GLOSSED OVER BY THE SO HE CAN TAKE TONY STARK AND NICK FURY'S OLD JOB.
THE FACT THAT THIS IS BEING GLOSSED OVER IS ONE OF THE MOST INSANE THINGS I HAVE EVER SEEN.
AND THOSE AVENGERS OF HIS... THOSE CHARACTERS DRESSED AS AVENGERS WHOSE SECRET IDENTITIES ARE KEPT UNDER WRAPS AS A POINT OF "NATIONAL SECURITY..."
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON/ AVENGER. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

THOSE ARE CRIMINALS AS WELL. FELONS. KNOWN ASSASSINS AND
THEY ARE NOT THEY NOT HEROES. THEY GUNS HIRE AND ONES AT THAT.
DEADLINENEWS
CLINT BARTON. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

THIS ISN'T ME HAVING A TANTRUM BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE IS RUNNING AROUND DRESSED IN MY OLD COSTUME.
I'M A GROWN MAN— I CAN HANDLE THAT.
I CAME [redacted] BECAUSE TONIGHT, ME AND MY TEAM, THE REAL AVENGERS...
DEADLINENEWS WORLD EXCLUSIVE: AVENGER CONTROVERSY

WE WERE ATTACKED BY A CRIME SYNDICATE LED BY PARKER ROBBINS, WHO IS KNOWN IN THE UNDERWORLD AS THE HOOD.
THE HOOD IS WORKING WITH OR FOR NORMAN OSBORN.
NORMAN OSBORN IS EMPLOYING CRIMINALS TO DO HIS BLACK OPS DIRTY WORK, RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.
THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED.
DEADLINENEWS CLINT [redacted] WORLD EXCLUSIVE


THIS NEEDS TO BE LOOKED INTO BY PEOPLE OF AUTHORITY. THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.
I CAME HERE TONIGHT TO TELL PEOPLE THE TRUTH.
TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT IS GOING ON.
I CAME HERE TO TELL NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS GAGGLE OF CRIMINALS THAT WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
AT ALL.
DEADLINENEWS CLINT BARTON. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

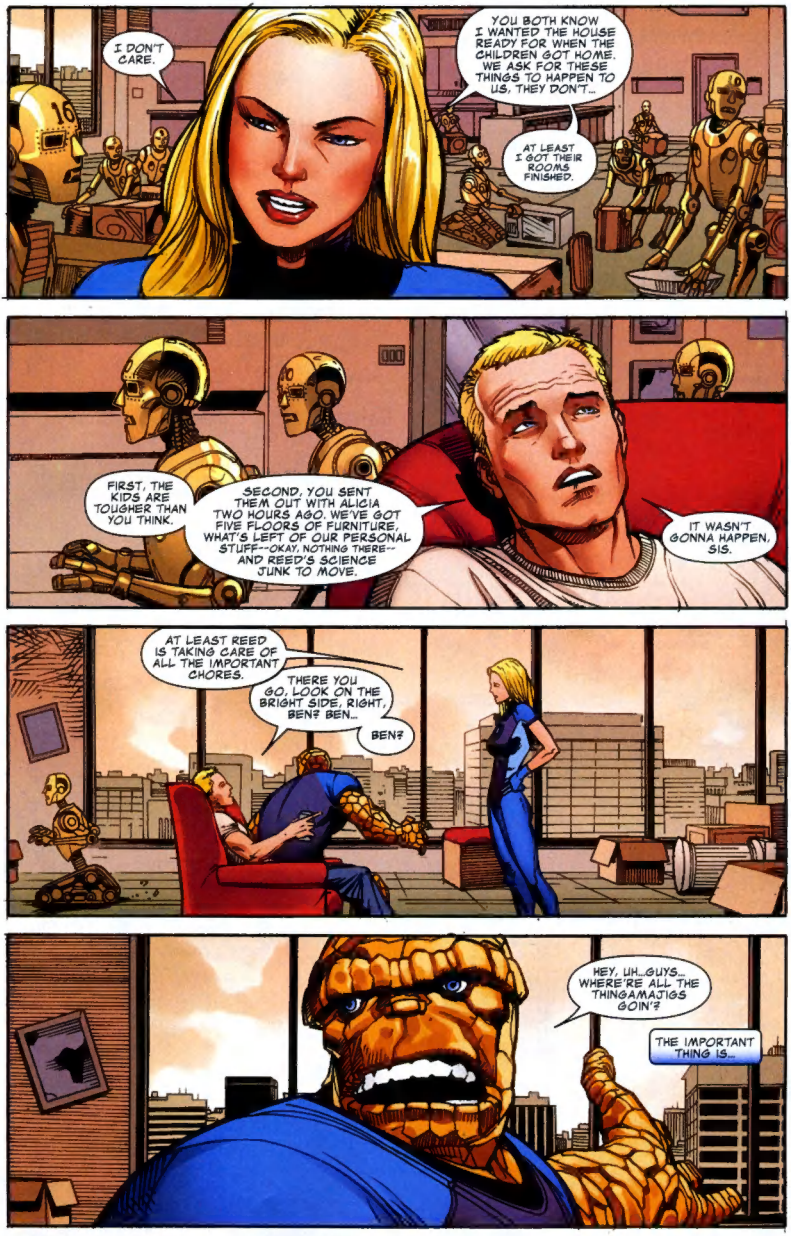
MY NAME IS CLINT BARTON AND I AM AN AVENGER.
I DON'T CARE WHO LIVES IN THAT BIG TOWER— I'M AN AVENGER, AND MY TEAM OF AVENGERS IS GOING TO BE OUT THERE EVERY DAY.
FIGHTING FOR YOU. FIGHTING AGAINST THIS.
DEADLINENEWS CLINT BARTON. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

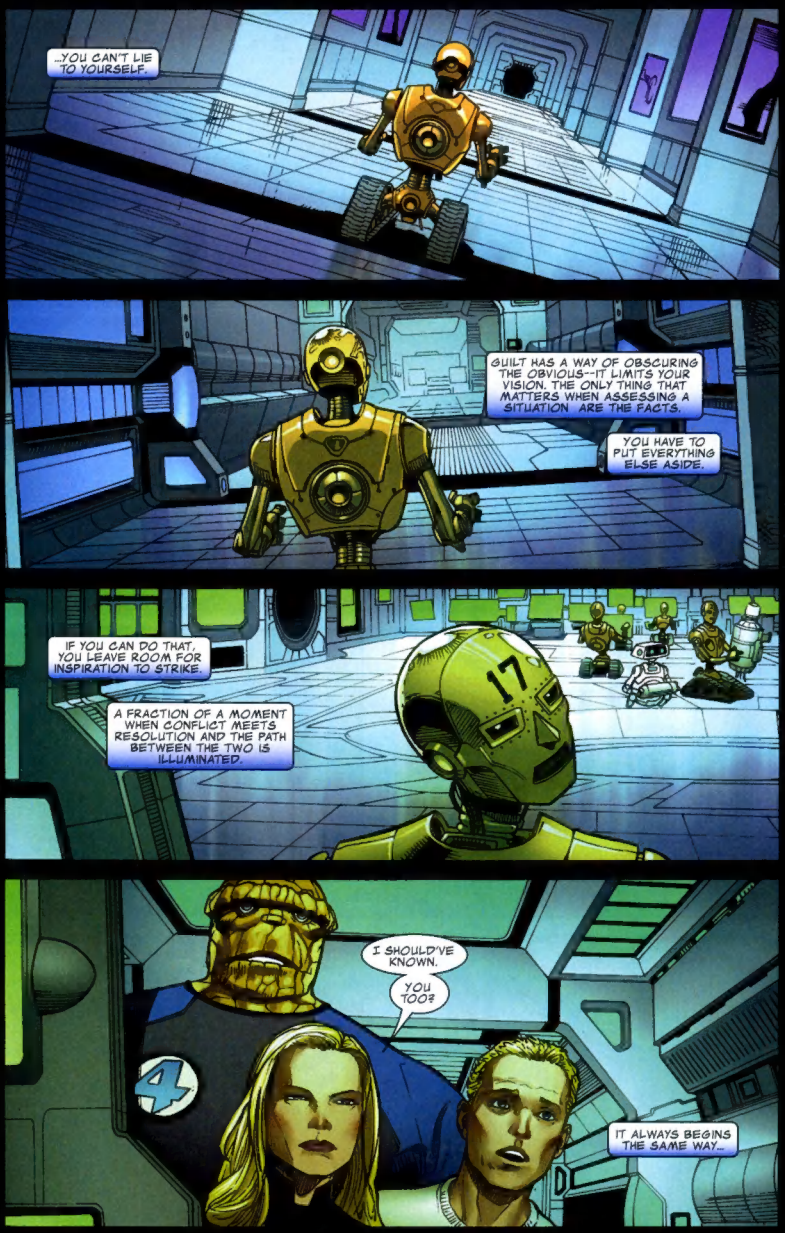
FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.
I'M HERE TO SAY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT THERE AND TAKE THIS.
DON'T LET THE BAD GUYS WIN.
YOU FIGHT. YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM.
DEADLINENEWS AVENGERS MADNESS. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

AND I'LL BE RIGHT THERE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE YOU.
I PROMISE THAT.
THAT'S IT.
I'M DONE.
TO BE CONTINUED...
DEADLINENEWS RONIN/ AVENGER. WORLD EXCLUSIVE

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU KEEP RIGHT ON MOVIN'!
I DUNNO, BEN...
I DON'T THINK I'M BEING OVERLY MATERIALISTIC... I DON'T.
BUT REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH WE DON'T WANT TO BE LABELED BY THESE THINGS, THEY DO. IN FACT, SAY SOMETHING ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A PERSON.
IT DOESN'T GO THERE, EITHER!
I'M NOT SAYING I'M ANY LESS OF A PERSON, OF COURSE I'M NOT.
BUT IF YOU TOOK AWAY THE RACE CAR FROM A FORMULA ONE DRIVER, IS HE STILL A RACE CAR DRIVER?
AWWW, THAT'S NOT GONNA FIT IN...
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT AND IT SCARES ME.
...HUH, WHADDAYA KNOW?
MAYBE I CAN'T EVER RETURN TO BEING THAT GUY. MAYBE I WON'T EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERIN' ABOUT?
I'M A MAN WITHOUT A MISSION, BEN. A PERFORMER WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE...

...WE'RE GETTING ALL THIS COOL NEW SWAG, AND ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HOW I LOST THE PHONE NUMBER FOR EVERY SINGLE, HOT, AND NEEDY WOMAN IN THE CITY.
WELL, HERE'S TA STARTIN' OVER, KIDDO.
:SIGH:
UNBELIEVABLE.
JOHNNY STORM! [redacted] GRIMM! WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU SITTING AROUND WHEN THIS ISN'T FINISHED YET?
AWWW, SUZIE, C'MON-- LIGHTEN UP.
THE DOOMBOTS ARE DOING A BETTER JOB THAN WE WOULD, AND BESIDES, THE KID'S GOT ISSUES.
IT'S TRUE. I'M A BIT DOWN AND YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND. I DON'T TELL YOU THAT ENOUGH.
SEE WHAT I'M SAYIN'?


I DON'T CARE.
YOU BOTH KNOW I WANTED THE HOUSE READY FOR WHEN THE CHILDREN GOT HOME. WE ASK FOR THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN TO US, THEY DON'T...
AT LEAST I GOT THEIR ROOMS FINISHED.
FIRST, THE KIDS ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK.
SECOND, YOU SENT THEM OUT WITH ALICIA TWO HOURS AGO. WE'VE GOT FIVE FLOORS OF FURNITURE, WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR PERSONAL STUFF--OKAY, NOTHING THERE-- AND REED'S SCIENCE JUNK TO MOVE.
IT WASN'T GONNA HAPPEN, SIS.
AT LEAST REED IS TAKING CARE OF ALL THE IMPORTANT CHORES.
THERE YOU GO. LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, RIGHT, BEN? BEN...
BEN?
HEY, UH...GUYS... WHERE'RE ALL THE THINGAMAJIGS GOIN'?
THE IMPORTANT THING IS...


...YOU CAN'T LIE TO YOURSELF.
GUILT HAS A WAY OF OBSCURING THE OBVIOUS--IT LIMITS YOUR VISION. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS WHEN ASSESSING A SITUATION ARE THE FACTS.
YOU HAVE TO PUT EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU LEAVE ROOM FOR INSPIRATION TO STRIKE.
A FRACTION OF A MOMENT WHEN CONFLICT MEETS RESOLUTION AND THE PATH BETWEEN THE TWO IS ILLUMINATED.
17
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN.
YOU TOO?
IT ALWAYS BEGINS THE SAME WAY...
4

I HAD AN IDEA.
REED!
I KNOW, I'M SORRY. I HAD THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.
I MADE A LIST.
SEE, I WAS GOING TO FINISH THE NEW HOME SECURITY PROGRAM AND BRING IT ONLINE, I DID ACTUALLY RE-PURPOSE A COUPLE OF HERBIES INTO A HOVER HORSE FOR FRANKLIN...
AND, WELL, THE LIST HAS TWENTY-SEVEN OTHER ITEMS ON IT...BUT THEN I HAD AN IDEA.
I BUILT A TWO-POINT SINGULARITY POWER SOURCE TO DRIVE THE UNCERTAINTY ENGINE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON, AND THEN I CREATED A VARIABLE IMAGER TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET THE DATA FROM ALTERNATE REALI...
HERE WE GO.
DOES ANYBODY BESIDES ME EVER GET TIRED OF FEELING LIKE THE DUMB KID IN SCIENCE CLASS?
JOHNNY.
YEAH?
WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR GRADES.
IT'S ACTUALLY AN OBSERVATION DEVICE TO SEE HOW PROBLEMS LIKE OURS WERE SOLVED ON OTHER EARTHS.
NOT SMALL, IS IT?
BIG PLANS, BEN. BIG MACHINE.

THIS IS THE BRIDGE.
DARK REIGN
FANTASTIC 4
ON-SALE IN MARCH